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Title Index

- [Item#1](#) Abortion Viewed in Moral Terms: Fewer See Stem Cell Research and IVF as Moral Issues
- [Item#2](#) The Causes of Instability in Nigeria and Implications for the United States
- [Item#3](#) Climate Change: Creating an Integrated Framework for Improving School Climate
- [Item#4](#) Egypt Highlights Race Between Trade and Terror
- [Item#5](#) 'Hybrid' Organizations a Difficult Bet for Entrepreneurs
- [Item#6](#) Iran's Unavoidable Influence Over Afghanistan's Future
- [Item#7](#) OPIC Unleashed: Strengthening US Tools to Promote Private-Sector Development Overseas
- [Item#8](#) Promoting Millennium Development Ideals: The Risks of Defining Development Down
- [Item#9](#) Public Backs Cutoff of Military Aid to Egypt
- [Item#10](#) Where Teens Seek Online Privacy Advice

Reports

[Item#1](#)

Abortion Viewed in Moral Terms: Fewer See Stem Cell Research and IVF as Moral Issues. Pew Research Religion & Public Life. August 15, 2013.

Regardless of their views about the legality of abortion, most Americans think that having an abortion is a moral issue. By contrast, the public is much less likely to see other issues involving human embryos - such as stem cell research or in vitro fertilization - as a matter of morality. Asked whether abortion is morally acceptable, morally wrong or not a moral issue, only about a quarter of U.S. adults (23%) say

they personally do not consider having an abortion to be a moral issue, according to the survey. Twice as many Americans (46%) say this about using in vitro fertilization.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewforum.org/files/2013/08/Morality-of-abortion-8-15-for-pdf.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages, 88.88 KB].

Item#2

The Causes of Instability in Nigeria and Implications for the United States. Strategic Studies Institute. Clarence J. Bouchat. August 19, 2013.

The political economy problems of Nigeria, the root cause for ethnic, religious, political and economic strife, can be in part addressed indirectly through focused contributions by the U.S. military, especially if regionally aligned units are more thoroughly employed.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1163> [HTML format with a link to the PDF file].

Item#3

Climate Change: Creating an Integrated Framework for Improving School Climate. Alliance for Excellent Education. August 15, 2013.

The report finds that schools that struggle most with providing a positive school climate more often disproportionately serve students of color and low-income students. It also confirms that students of color and students from low-income families are less likely to have access to rigorous course work and experienced teachers, and are more likely to be suspended than their white and wealthier peers. It analyzes data from the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights's Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) to determine how this data can be used to support effective secondary school reform, with a particular focus on the nation's lowest-performing secondary schools.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.all4ed.org/files/HSClimate1.pdf> [PDF format, 13 pages, 379.95 KB].

Item#4

Egypt Highlights Race Between Trade and Terror. YaleGlobal. Humphrey Hawksley. August 15, 2013.

The Arab Spring protests, with demands for representative government and economic stability, have disintegrated into violent power struggles. After one year, Egypt's military removed the first democratically elected president, Mohamed Morsi, from power and cracked down on protests by his supporters, leaving more than 500 dead. Violence unfolds in Syria, Libya, Tunisia and Iraq, too. Building democratic governments is a long process, explains Hawksley. Compromise challenges polarized societies accustomed to authoritarian rule. A failing economy exacerbates public anger, and the Middle East is especially susceptible to extremists taking advantage of economic chaos and power vacuums.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/egypt-highlights-race-between-trade-and-terror> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5

'Hybrid' Organizations a Difficult Bet for Entrepreneurs. Working Knowledge, Harvard Business School. Julie Battilana and Matthew Lee. August 12, 2013.

Hybrid organizations combine the social logic of a nonprofit with the commercial logic of a for-profit business, but are very difficult to finance. So why would anyone want to form one? The authors investigate.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://hbswk.hbs.edu/pdf/item/7284.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages, 1.65 MB].

Item#6

Iran's Unavoidable Influence Over Afghanistan's Future. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Martha Brill Olcott. August 15, 2013.

Iran has positioned itself as an important regional actor in Central Asia and is committed to playing a role in neighboring Afghanistan. As U.S. troops draw down their numbers in Afghanistan, Washington should consider how improved U.S.-Iranian relations could further long-term U.S. policy goals in Afghanistan and in the region, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://carnegieendowment.org/2013/08/15/iran-s-unavoidable-influence-over-afghanistan-s-future/gii0> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

OPIC Unleashed: Strengthening US Tools to Promote Private-Sector Development Overseas. Center for Global Development. Benjamin Leo et al. August 14, 2013.

The US government has a large number of existing tools, policy options, and institutions to encourage entrepreneurship and commercial activity abroad. The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), a government agency created in 1971 to mobilize private capital in developing countries, is the core institution. However, these tools have not been deployed in an efficient or strategic manner. This underperformance is largely because OPIC is severely constrained by outdated rules and because many needed tools are spread across other federal agencies, according to the authors. The lack of authorization of necessary investment tools used by competing overseas peer institutions, fragmentation of effort, and lack of cohesion across multiple agencies means that the sum of these parts is far less than optimal for both American and developing country interests.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/OPIC-Unleashed-final.pdf> [PDF format, 11 pages, 362.55 KB].

Item#8

Promoting Millennium Development Ideals: The Risks of Defining Development Down. Center for Global Development. Lant Pritchett and Charles Kenny. August 14, 2013.

The approach of 2015, the target date of the Millennium Development Goals, sets the stage for a global reengagement on the question of "what is development?" The report argues that the post-2015 development framework for development should include Millennium Development Ideals which put into measurable form the high aspirations countries have for the well-being of their citizens. Standing alone, low bar targets like the existing Millennium Development Goals "define development down" and put at risk both domestic and global coalitions to support to an inclusive development agenda. Measuring development progress exclusively by low bar targets creates the illusion that specific targeted programs can be an adequate substitute for a broad national and global development agenda.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/Pritchett_Kenny_md-ideals_wcvr.pdf [PDF format, 37 pages, 5.33 MB].

Item#9

Public Backs Cutoff of Military Aid to Egypt. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. August 19, 2013.

With violence continuing to rage in Egypt, 51% of Americans say it is better for the United States to cut off military aid to Egypt to put pressure on the government. This is nearly double the percentage (26%) saying it is better to continue military aid to the government in order to maintain influence in Egypt.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/08-19-13%20Egypt%20Release.pdf> [PDF format, 18 pages, 185.31 KB].

Item#10

Where Teens Seek Online Privacy Advice. Pew Internet & American Life. Amana Lenhart et al. August 15, 2013.

Many teens ages 12-17 report that they usually figure out how to manage content sharing and privacy settings on their own. Focus group interviews with teens suggest that for their day-to-day privacy management, teens are guided through their choices in the app or platform when they sign up, or find answers through their own searching and use of their preferred platform. At the same time, though, a nationally representative survey of teen internet users shows that, at some point, 70% of them have sought advice from someone else about how to manage their privacy online. When they do seek outside help, teens most often turn to friends, parents or other close family members.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://pewinternet.org/~media//Files/Reports/2013/PIP_TeensandPrivacyAdvice.pdf [PDF format, 17 pages, 1.27 MB].